

19. (Previously added) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising a planar platform slanted from horizontal in a single plane having a plurality of holes therethrough and supported above a bucket bottom on a vertical skirt depending from a platform perimeter and sized to flexibly engage a water bucket wall.

REMARKS

Claim 4 has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the screen rest within the bucket.

The Examiner cites Divine (US 5,291,921) as anticipating claims 1, 3, 13 and 19.

Applicant traverses the examiner's application of this cite. Applicant's claim 1 requires "a plurality of claims arrayed through the platform." Divine has a single hole and not on the platform at all. The platform to which Applicant refers is slanted "from a high platform perimeter portion to a lower platform perimeter portion." The Divine has a slanting platform but it has no holes in it. The Divine hole is in a portion of the device separate from the slanting portion. Thus Divine teaches a slanting platform without holes. Because Divine has no holes in its slanting platform, the examiner cites Latham, which shows a plurality of holes in a drainage plate sitting on the slanting platform and suggests that it would be obvious to combine the holes of the Latham drainage plate on the slanting platform with the Divine platform. To be precise, the examiner only suggests incorporating "the Latham embodiment" into the Divine device. If the examiner means to add the plurality of Latham holes into the Divine slanting platform, the suggestion is inappropriate: holes in the Divine slanting platform would permit liquid to flow to the container top instead of to the Divine device hole that directs liquid into the container, making the Divine device dysfunctional. If the examiner means to add a plate with holes over the Divine slanting platform, the suggestion is also inappropriate. The Divine slanting platform comprises a series of parallel ribs 40. The Latham plate supported by a plurality of feet 46 designed to rest on a flat surface would not be supported on the Divine ribs. Latham recognized

that holes and ribs and a plate on ribs are incompatible when Divine also disclosed an alternative plate comprising a plurality of ribs but without holes, noting the alternative configurations and therein teaching the incompatibility of both in a same configuration. Further the Devine device and the Latham device are not within a bucket or capable of being supported on a bucket bottom by the depending skirt. Note that the Devine "necked down portion 38" and the Latham drainage conduit 16 both extend below the skirt into a hole in a container top revealing (1) that the device is adapted to sit on a container top (not within a container and not on a container bottom) and (2) that that Devine portion 38 and the Latham conduit 16 would prevent the device from being supported by its depending skirt 34 even if it were placed on a container bottom. Divine and Latham are both designed for use on a container top to funnel liquid into the container through a hole in the container top. There is no suggestion that their devices should or might also be applied to rest on a container bottom. To the contrary, to position the Divine device on a container bottom would make the device dysfunctional. The proposed combination would yield Applicant's device but yield a dysfunctional device. Thus, Divine and Latham or their combination are not at all obvious combinations and certainly are not valid cites against Applicant's claim 1.

With regard to claim 3, there is no suggestion that the Devine device should be placed within a container or that the device would extend to the container wall if done. To the contrary, the device shown is square and the illustrated container is a round cylinder. There is no suggestion that the Devine device if placed within the disclosed container would serve to prevent splash from the container bottom from passing past the device skirt; the skirt does not match the container wall shape.

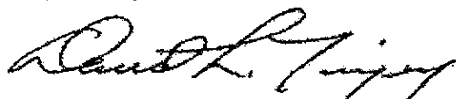
The arguments above with regard to claims 1 and 3 also apply to claim 19.

Independent claims as amended are believed to be in allowable form. Dependent claims as amended should be allowed as dependent on allowable independent claims. If the examiner finds that a further amendment in addition to the above amendments would put a claim in allowable form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with a recommendation..

The undersigned believes there is no fee due. If for any reason this submittal is not deemed timely, Applicant request an extension of time sufficient to make the submittal timely and authorizes the examiner to charge this or any other necessary fee is associated with this submittal to the undersign's deposit account, 500416.

For Applicant, Cresswell

Respectfully,



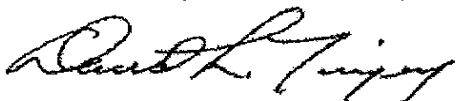
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Dated: November 25, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF FAXING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by facsimile transmission to the examiner at (703) 872 9306 on this day of November 25, 2003



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